

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

Allowable subject matter

Claims 1-11, 14, 15, 17, 19, and 21 presently stand rejected as being anticipated by Washio et al (U.S. 2003/0122773). However, the examiner has indicated that claims 12, 13, 16, 18, 20, and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, claims 12, 13, 16, 18, 20, and 22 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and claims 1-11, 14, 15, 17, 19, and 21 have been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that claims 12, 13, 16, 18, 20, and 22 are now allowable as indicated by the examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 12, 13, 16, 18, 20, and 22 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.


Application No.: 10647.326
Examiner: C. Harrison
Art Unit: 2677

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

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Respectfully submitted,


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